

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-10 are pending in the instant application after this amendment adds new claims 9 and 10. Claims 1-8 and the Specification are amended by this amendment. No new matter is added by the amendments and new claims, which are supported throughout the specification and figures. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has acknowledged the priority claim and receipt of priority documents for this application.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These claims are amended for clarity, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presented are definite.

The Specification is objected to based on informalities. The Specification is amended herein, including a more complete description of the references cited in the Specification, as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the objections to the Specification be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 5, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0209650 to Pearce (hereinafter referred to as Pearce). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Pearce has a filing date of December 11, 2003, which is after the U.S. filing date of the present application of November 19, 2003. Therefore, Pearce is not prior art with respect to the present application. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants include with this Amendment a certified translation of the priority document, Japanese Patent Application number 2002-335911. Therefore, Applicants assert the priority date of the priority application,

which is November 20, 2002, and which predates the filing date of Pearce by more than one year. Additionally, the date of the priority document predates the filing date of the provisional application from which Pearce claims priority, which is December 12, 2002, which is the earliest possible priority date for Pearce. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Pearce is not prior art with respect to the present application, and for at least this reason the claims are allowable.

New claim 9 relates to a system of managing mobile communication devices that includes an arrangement for receiving from a mobile device a request for a special fee service and an arrangement for querying the mobile device for an indication of a master-slave status. The system of claim 9 also includes an arrangement for providing the special fee service if the mobile device is a master device. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 9 is allowable over the references.

New claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 9 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hennessey
Reg. No. 51,271

CUSTOMER NO.: 026304

Telephone No.: (212) 940-6311
Fax No.: (212) 940-8986/7
Docket No.: 100806-00240 (NEKO 20.738)
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